

February 25, 2013



The Honorable Janice K. Brewer
Governor, State of Arizona
1700 W. Washington
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Brewer,

As the largest private funder of health and human services in Maricopa County, we work with a broad network of partners including 100 non-profit organizations, 700 businesses, 90,000 individual donors and more than 6,000 volunteers to advance the common good. Together with our partners, we are transforming lives and creating long-term systemic changes that ensure youth are successful in school and life, that families and individuals increase their financial stability and self-sufficiency and that we end hunger and homelessness in Maricopa County.

On behalf of Valley of the Sun United Way, we write to express our support of your proposal to expand Medicaid coverage in Arizona and the creation of a new funding source for the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) that works with hospitals across the state.

We are committed to support programs that protect our most vulnerable populations and all Arizonans and applaud your leadership in the expansion of Medicaid coverage for our citizens. Access to health care ensures that children are successful in school, parents remain in the workforce, that businesses sustain productivity, that hardworking families, neighbors and co-workers remain healthy and independent.

By expanding the state's Medicaid program, Arizona will realize major advantages:

- Vital health care services will be provided to some 300,000 Arizonans helping to maintain their stability and independence.
- In 2015, the first full year of implementation, \$1.6 billion in new matching federal funds will flow into Arizona, freeing up general fund dollars to provide other essential services such as education and safety for our children and youth.
- Long-term it will inject \$2 billion into the economy – saving and creating thousands of jobs.

Expanding our AHCCCS program will provide Arizona the billions of dollars that Arizona taxpayers have paid into federal taxes to support health care programs. If Arizonans do not seek our share, those funds will provide health care for citizens in other states. Most importantly, we will provide countless individuals excellent care provided through AHCCCS, therefore, this is an investment in our community.

Please add Valley of the Sun United Way to the list of supporters of your Medicaid/AHCCCS proposal, a plan that supports our community objectives and ensures that families and individuals remain stable and independent. We look forward to working with you and strengthening our state's future.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Merl Waschler".

Merl Waschler
President and CEO
Valley of the Sun United Way